

ISAC Meeting – December 2011

ACTION OR INFORMATION ITEM

SPONSOR (Name/Email): ISAC Prevention Sub-committee

TOPIC: The importance of taxonomy, taxonomic expertise, and biodiversity collections in supporting invasive species management

SPEAKER (Name/Email): Scott Miller – Smithsonian Institution (millers@si.edu)

1. DESCRIPTION OF AGENDA ITEM:

This presentation will cover the extreme importance of taxonomy and illustrate some of the new tools that are now available including DNA barcoding, digital imaging, and information resources such as the Encyclopedia of Life and the Biodiversity Heritage Library.

2. WHY IS THIS ITEM IMPORTANT TO NISC / ISAC? HOW IS IT RELATED TO THE NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT PLAN?

The issue is of importance to ISAC due to the fact that in recent years fewer and fewer taxonomists are being trained in the U.S. The situation is impairing our ability to correctly identify and manage invasive and potentially invasive species. Taxonomic expertise is particularly important when organisms are screened for import and export since they are often mislabeled in both regular commerce and e-commerce.

3. PREVIOUS ACTIONS TAKEN BY NISC / ISAC ON THIS ITEM:

This topic has been discussed in the past and ISAC has recommended that federal agencies increase funding for taxonomic work and training.

4. ACTION REQUESTED OF NISC / ISAC:

The E-commerce session is intended as an information gathering exercise to inform the development of a white paper and/or recommendations to NISC which will be forthcoming.

5. ALTERNATIVES:

This topic could be briefly mentioned during some of the other presentations or presented directly to the prevention subcommittee.

6. ATTACHMENTS: